

George's County and another at Fort Detrick in Frederick County. Not only will facilities like these help to reduce backlog and waiting times, they will allow more veterans to receive care close to home.

We know, however, that we can and must do more for our Nation's veterans, for those who have given so much to our country. In addition to giving our veterans the benefits they deserve, we must continue to honor their service and keep the memory of our fallen soldiers alive. In that spirit, I introduced bipartisan legislation to grant a Federal charter to the Korean War Veterans Association, S. 1692, the only fraternal veterans' organization in the United States devoted exclusively to veterans of the Korean war. This bill unanimously passed the Senate, and I am hopeful it will soon pass the House. Should that happen, it will ensure that the nearly 1.2 million American veterans of the Korean war will receive the Federal recognition they deserve for their dedication and sacrifice.

As elected leaders, we also have an obligation to act as good stewards for our military, exercising wise judgment for its use and providing the equipment, training, and materiel necessary for its success. My colleagues and I have made a good faith effort to act as those stewards.

Just this past Thursday evening, Congress passed a spending bill that provides \$460 billion for the Department of Defense, which is \$40 billion above the fiscal year 2007 enacted level. Congress directed that money be spent on a pay raise and better medical care and benefits for our troops but also on procuring new equipment for our National Guard, increasing troop strength, and developing the Armed Forces and the tools necessary to engage in the very different types of conflicts we are confronted with in the world today.

In his second inaugural address, a portion of which is engraved on our Veterans' Administration building, President Lincoln said:

Let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

I see those words as a charge to us here in Government, laying out the grave and important work we have left to do. But I think these words can serve as a guide to all of us, in every community, today and every day, as we welcome and honor our returned and returning heroes and work toward a more perfect Union.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, founding Veterans Day in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower called upon Americans to "solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of free-

dom. . . ." Today, we heed the advice of President Eisenhower and pay respect to all soldiers who have sacrificed to ensure America remains free, safe, and the symbol of democracy around the world.

Throughout history, our soldiers have been asked to abandon their livelihoods to defend America's ideals and freedoms. Our soldiers have shouldered this great responsibility with courage, dedication, and honor. In return, this Nation cannot forget the countless sacrifices our soldiers have made for this country. We commemorate these valiant Americans who have protected the liberties and freedoms that all enjoy today.

Congress must do its part to honor our Nation's soldiers. We are profoundly grateful for the many sacrifices that our soldiers have made in the current war against terrorists and in past conflicts. This includes ensuring all veterans receive proper health care, benefits, rehabilitation, and services. Congress will continue to support our veterans.

We are all forever indebted to our veterans. I, therefore, personally thank all veterans and their families for the sacrifices you all have endured. I salute your valor and am immensely grateful for your service.

RECOGNIZING THE RUNNIN' BULLDOGS

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, it is with great honor that I rise today to proudly recognize the accomplishments of the Gardner-Webb University "Runnin' Bulldogs" of Boiling Springs, NC.

Originally chartered on December 2, 1905, Gardner-Webb has long been known for its excellent academic and athletic programs, which is a testament to its accomplished faculty. As a thriving regional university, Gardner-Webb offers eight unique degree programs on its beautiful 200 acre campus. Led by University President Dr. Frank Bonner, its approximately 4,000 students are some of the brightest minds their generation has to offer and I look forward to witnessing their rise through the ranks in the coming years ahead.

On November 7, 2007, in a truly David versus Goliath story, the Gardner-Webb "Runnin' Bulldogs" basketball team visited storied Rupp Arena to challenge the Kentucky Wildcats, one of college basketball's most successful programs, boasting seven National Championships. Late into the evening it became official, the Bulldogs shocked college basketball by upsetting the #20 ranked Wildcats. The Bulldogs entered the locker room at halftime with an 11 point lead and never looked back. With a final score of 84-68, head coach Rick Scruggs, team staff and the determined players masterfully executed their game plan which will forever be remembered as one the greatest upsets in college basketball history.

I join the university's many loyal supporters, alumni and fans everywhere in commending not only the Bulldogs' outstanding accomplishment last night, but the entire Gardner-Webb community for cultivating an environment that believes that accomplishing anything is not only plausible, but as highlighted last night, is possible.

TRAVEL RULES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to notify all Senators that on Friday, November 9, 2007, the Committee on Rules and Administration approved the request of the Select Committee on Ethics and granted a 3-week extension until December 3, 2007, for the Ethics Committee to issue the initial guidelines implementing the new rules on privately sponsored travel required by Public Law 110-81.

In their letter to the Rules Committee, Senators BOXER and CORNYN note that unless the request is approved, the new travel rules would become effective on November 13, 2007. Due to the scheduling of a number of proposed trips on or shortly after November 13, the Ethics Committee believes that the additional required paperwork would not be submitted in time for review before the trips commence.

The 3-week extension will afford the Ethics Committee additional time to post the proposed new travel guidelines on its Web site. These guidelines will be effective on December 3, 2007, and all privately sponsored travel beginning on or after that date will be required to conform to the new rules and guidelines.

I ask unanimous consent to have the letter from the Ethics Committee dated November 7, 2007, printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS,
Washington, DC, November 7, 2007.

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
Chairman, Committee on Rules and Administration, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT F. BENNETT,
Ranking Member, Committee on Rules and Administration, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS FEINSTEIN AND BENNETT: Consistent with the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 (the "Act"), the Select Committee on Ethics requests that the Committee on Rules and Administration extends until December 3, 2007, the deadline for the Ethics Committee's formal issuance of the initial guidelines implementing the new rules on privately-sponsored travel. (See Section 544(b)(4) of the Act.)

The legislative history of the Act provides that the new travel requirements "go into effect 60 days after enactment, or the date the Select Committee on Ethics issues the required guidelines under the rules, whichever is later." Without the requested extension, the new travel rules would become effective on November 13, 2007. The Committee has prepared guidelines and new forms that

must be completed by Senate members and staff, as well as trip sponsors, 30 days prior to their travel. We would be ready to issue these guidelines and forms on November 13. However, a number of proposed trips that have been submitted to the Committee for review begin on or shortly after November 13, and it would be highly unlikely that the additional paperwork could be completed for review by the Committee before these trips begin.

If the Committee on Rules and Administration extends the deadline for issuance of the guidelines until December 3, 2007, all privately-sponsored travel beginning on or after that date would be required to conform to the new rules and guidelines.

So that privately-sponsored travel starting on or after December 3, 2007, may meet the requirements of the new travel rules, the Committee intends on November 13, 2007, to post on its Web site a preview of the complete text of the new travel guidelines, and related regulations and forms, that the Committee will issue formally on December 3, 2007, if the Committee on Rules and Administrations grants the requested extension.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request,

Sincerely,

BARBARA BOXER,
Chairman.
JOHN CORNYN,
Vice Chairman.

EMANCIPATION HALL

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today, as chairman of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, to voice my support of legislation to name the great hall in the new Capitol Visitor Center "Emancipation Hall."

This legislation—S.1679—was introduced by Senator MARY LANDRIEU on June 21, 2007, and is cosponsored by Senator BARACK OBAMA. I am proud to join them as a cosponsor.

A companion bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Representatives ZACH WAMP and JESSE JACKSON. The measure has over 225 cosponsors in the House and last week it was approved by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. It is my understanding that it will soon be taken up by the House, which earlier approved the proposal as part of the fiscal year 2008 legislative branch appropriations bill.

I encourage my colleagues in the Senate to support this legislation.

The naming of "Emancipation Hall" in the new Capitol Visitor Center would be a fitting tribute to the contributions of slaves in the construction of our Nation's Capitol Building. It would also serve to recognize the end of slavery in the United States.

The Capitol Visitor Center is nearing completion, and its Great Hall promises to be a spectacular place—an estimated 3 million people are expected to gather in the area as they come to visit our great Capitol each year.

And through large skylights in the ceiling, visitors will be able to look upwards and gaze upon the grand Capitol dome.

This environment is the perfect place for visitors to reflect upon the construction of the U.S. Capitol, and to

recognize the slaves who helped to build it.

The total number of slaves who worked on the Capitol is unknown. But there is evidence that slave workers contributed in a number of important ways to its construction. This includes a slave named Philip Reid who played an important role in the casting of the 19-foot, 15,000-pound bronze Statue of Freedom that rests atop the Capitol dome. Others are memorialized in pay stubs to their owners for work done in the Capitol.

Naming the Great Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center as "Emancipation Hall" would serve to recognize both the brutal truth of our Nation's past and the importance of freedom as a pillar of modern America.

The history of slavery in the United States is a grim chapter in our Nation's history. But the Emancipation Proclamation, issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, was an important step toward abolishing slavery in the United States.

In the Emancipation Proclamation, President Lincoln declared:

I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

While the Emancipation Proclamation did not officially abolish slavery in all of the United States, it was an important commitment by the government to end this centuries-long injustice.

By sustaining the history of this great act, we highlight the importance of freedom. And by naming the Capitol Visitor Center's main entry as "Emancipation Hall," we do so in a significant way that all visitors of our Nation's Capitol Building will notice and respect.

As chairman of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee and the Joint Committee on the Library, which oversees Capitol artwork, I believe it is very important to provide an accurate and diversified image of our Nation for the visitors to our Capitol. The naming of "Emancipation Hall" would be one step toward achieving that.

I also welcome a new report by the congressional Slave Labor Task Force, which has come forward with a number of recommendations for acknowledging and commemorating the work slaves performed in building our Capitol.

I look forward to working with the task force on this issue so people throughout the world will know more about the contribution by slaves toward constructing the building that has become the very foundation of our democracy.

IDENTITY THEFT ENFORCEMENT AND RESTITUTION ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am disappointed that some Senator is pre-

venting the Senate from taking an important step forward to combat identity theft and to protect the privacy rights of all Americans by passing the Leahy-Specter Identity Theft Enforcement and Restitution Act of 2007. This bipartisan cyber crime bill, which was requested by the Department of Justice, will provide new tools to Federal prosecutors to combat identity theft and other computer crimes. I know that it is cleared for passage by all Democratic Senators.

The dangers of identity theft and other cyber crimes continue to increase as our Nation becomes more dependent on high technology. In fact, just last week, FBI Director Robert Mueller stated that "[c]yber threats will continue to grow as people become more and more dependent upon digital technology" and "we will be vulnerable to terrible attacks." Prompt Senate action on this bill will bring us one step closer to providing greatly needed tools to the Federal prosecutors and investigators who are on the front lines of the battle against identity theft and other cyber crimes. I urge those objecting to proceeding on this bill to reconsider their actions and allow the bill to be considered and passed.

I thank Senator SPECTER, who has been a valuable partner in combating the growing problem of identity theft for many years, for joining with me to introduce this important privacy bill. I have once again worked in a bipartisan manner with a group of Senators on both sides of the aisle to draft this legislation. I thank Senators DURBIN, GRASSLEY, SCHUMER, BILL NELSON, INOUE, STEVENS, and FEINSTEIN for joining with us as cosponsors of this important legislation.

I commend Senators BIDEN and HATCH for their contributions in this area. I am pleased that several provisions they have suggested to further strengthen this cyber crime legislation were included by amendment in this bill when it was considered and reported by the Judiciary Committee and that they, too, have now cosponsored our bill.

Senator SPECTER and I have worked closely with the Department of Justice in crafting this bill, and the Leahy-Specter Identity Theft Enforcement and Restitution Act has the strong support of the Department of Justice and the Secret Service. This bill is also supported by a broad coalition of business, high-tech and consumer groups, including Microsoft, Consumers Union, the Cyber Security Industry Alliance, the Business Software Alliance, AARP, and the Chamber of Commerce.

The Identity Theft Enforcement and Restitution Act takes several important and long overdue steps to protect Americans from the growing and evolving threat of identity theft and other cyber crimes. First, to better protect American consumers, our bill provides the victims of identity theft with the ability to seek restitution in Federal court for the loss of time and money